



SCAPPOOSE *Oregon*

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting - April 26, 2023 7:30 pm

Recording: https://youtu.be/F_sByRtxvLY

Attendees: Bryan, Cara, Paul, Terry, Isaac, Ian, Scottie, Jeannet, JJ, Dave Sukau Public Works Director

Absent: Mike

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Chair Cara Heinze.

1.1. Meeting Agenda

Brian made a motion to approve the April 26, 2023 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Terry. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

2.1. Level of Service

Cara stated that she wanted to focus in on the Level of service discussion tonight. She stated that the Level of Service is quite important, and that there have been many suggestions about that. The current Level of Service is 4.9 acres per 1000 residents. MIG suggested, based off of staffing and context, a number they think we can achieve of 7.9 acres per 1000.

Dave stated that to him there are two levels of service, the quantity of parks and the quality of parks. Dave stated that quality is more important, a barren piece of ground doesn't make a good park. He'd prefer to have a few diamond parks, rather than many pieces of open land. Cara asked Dave what the plan would be if 7.9 acres per 1000 was adopted. Dave stated that this would depend on the amenities that were installed. Maintenance is the key factor in this and it is hard to tell at this point. The City only has 1.5 FTE to work on and maintain all the parks. Cara asked if there was some number that would require a District to be founded. Dave stated that that is not really how that works. Cara asked about external funding, and if the proposed increase is manageable. Dave responded that it is no at the current staffing levels.

Paul stated that level of service is being put into the 50-Year Plan and is part of how the city is going to grow. This will drive the available lands inventory. The number is an input into the available lands inventory, which will impact how the Urban Growth Boundary expands.

Dave talked about how the prioritization of Level of Service could impact parks development, and what that means for the City, the Parks system, and the budget.

Paul stated that our current level of service is on the low end of the spectrum for cities our size.

Dave stated that the groups needs to look at this topic and find a consensus, something that is achievable, but has a component of aspiration to it. Cara stated that one suggestion was a tiered approach to Level of Service.



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Bryan stated that he agrees with Dave that we need to think about acquiring space, but that maintenance needs could make things unusable, and keeping what we have functioning is important. A dream number is important.

Cara stated that if the committee asked for 20 there could be difficulties. Dave stated that it's not so easy to just expand the UGB forever, and there are criteria to meet to do that. Dave stated that if a piece of property did become available, the City would jump on it.

Paul stated that the City of Scappoose LOS is lower than average, and that asking for the average is reasonable. If we went too high it would be hard to justify. He stated that the national guidelines is reasonable, and it would look bad and not meet the citizens needs and wants, and wouldn't reflect the parks system the community wants.

Terry stated that there are challenges with available land in Scappoose, and there are people that don't want to grow the City, but that it is important to grow the parks system. Cara asked what he thinks the LOS should be. Terry replied that there are a lot of challenges to saying that we are going to grow the City.

Paul stated that what he thinks is that we are trying to solve the problems in the room, and that they are bigger than what we are talking about tonight. It is important to ensure that as we grow we account for space needs.

Cara asked Bryan what LOS he would be in favor of. Bryan stated 10-12 acres per thousand.

Cara asked Scottie what her thoughts are on the LOS. Scottie stated that she likes the NRPA guidelines, but that sometimes what gets missed is that those guidelines are very very broad, and that there are challenges and constraints at the micro level. Scottie stated that she would rather provide quality opportunities for the City, rather than just having land. Scottie stated that she is pro prioritizing areas of the City that are underserved; and is in favor of quality opportunities for everyone. She likes stretch goals, and is hesitant to put only a aspirational goal in a master plan. Scottie stated that doubling or tripling the current LOS seems very aspirational. She stated that she is not in favor of putting anything that exceeds the NRPA number, and would rather see us exceed our target than not meet our target.

Cara asked JJ her thoughts on LOS. JJ stated that she thinks that 15 acres per 1000 is achievable.

Cara asked Paul his thoughts on LOS. He stated that he thinks the Plan should be going after the national average. He stated that given earlier statements we might not be so far off from the national average, and it might be worth it to ask them to look at the NRPA standards and how that is calculated, and how that could be applied here, and maybe we see where we sit, and would be in favor of using the guidelines how they are setup.

Cara asked Ian his thoughts on LOS. He stated that growth is inevitable and connected, and currently our parks system is low, and doesn't drive the community in terms of development. He stated that there are different types of parks in different cities that give different types of experiences. He stated that he thinks we should be shooting for the national average. We want to be able to tell our community that we are at least at the national average. The goal should



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push the community's development; this is about what we strive for as a community. A Master Plan is not a contract but directs the seeking of opportunities when they become available or are possible.

Dave stated that within the SPRC perhaps there are two metrics for LOS, one for developed parks, and one that includes or is undeveloped/greenspace/natural areas. MIG has given good data that shows that if we are trying to achieve these goals we are looking at land that is on the outskirts of the current City. Dave thinks that perhaps by looking at a two-pronged approach, there can be two separate budgeting and directions to achieve both levels of service.

Cara stated that it sounds like everyone wants to set the average, and this is a combination of developed and undeveloped parks and would like feedback on that.

Paul stated that as the City develops we should make sure that there are parks where new development is happening. Dave stated that quantification is important as it gives guidance and vision. He would like to try and get some number to these LOS. The Plan will guide the City in quantification.

Cara asked if a LOS of 8 for developed parks and 4 for undeveloped parks. Ian stated that the word undeveloped is not a term he likes. If there is access then there is a value, he likes the term minimally developed. Ian's understanding of LOS is that there are different parks that serve different needs, such as community parks, neighborhood parks and so on. Maybe a new park type is Nature Park, and that would get at some of this discussion.

Cara asked that if undeveloped parks are included in the Level of Service, could we comfortably achieve 12 or more acres per 1000, or even 7.9 acres of developed parks and 7.1 acres of minimally developed/undeveloped parks.

Paul stated that that would get at what the Annual Town Meeting discussion was about. Cara stated that she likes looking at 7.9 developed parks, and 7.1 minimally developed parks.

Dave stated that he would like to talk with MIG and the City Team about this since this is all new, and the mindset is different. It would be good to see what the planning department thinks since this is a very different way of thinking.

Cara stated that her thoughts are that the Committee thinks that the plan should target a LOS 7.9 developed parks, and a LOS of 15 total, including nature parks and minimally developed parks. The Committee agreed by consensus.

Meeting Adjourned at pm.

For questions about these minutes, contact Isaac Butman, 503.543.7184 ibutman@cityofscappoose.org
The EDC conducts its meetings in an ADA accessible room. If special accommodations are needed, please contact City Recorder Susan Reeves at 503.543.7146, ext. 224 TTY 503.378.5938